

## FISHING REPORT NUMBER 3: 5/8/2008



### INLAND REPORT

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#### TROUT

**Rivers & streams** - Flows have decreased to more typical (and very fishable) levels and anglers have been finding good to excellent trout fishing in most waters throughout the state, with best reports from the West Branch Farmington TMA (browns up to 4 lbs), Salmon, Mill (including a 23 inch rainbow), Farmill, Fenton, Pequonnock, Mianus, Natchaug, Willimantic, Little, Blackberry, Saugatuck River TMA, Eightmile (East Haddam), Hammonasset, Housatonic (21 inch rainbow), Naugatuck, Pootatuck, Pomperaug, Quinebaug, Moosup, Shetucket (**9.5 lb brown** among the catches), Yantic, Pachaug, Fivemile, French and Natchaug (4.5 lb brown among the catches) Rivers, Roaring Brook (Glastonbury), Broad Brook and Latimer Brook.

**Farmington River** - Flows are clear and moderate, currently 430 CFS at Riverton and an additional 120 CFS from the Still River. Water temperatures are in the low 50's °F. Current hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. baetis or vegans; #18) in a parachute or emerging dun (noon to 5pm), Hendrickson (a.k.a. red quill; #12-#14) in a parachute, comparadun or emerger (1 pm or yellow egg sac pattern around 6 pm) and Blue Quill (a.k.a. paralep; #18) in a parachute or emerger (midday). Also try Rusty Spinners (#16-18), Mahogany Duns/Blue Quills (#18-20), Tan Caddis (#14-18) and Winter Caddis (#18-22). Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly. Try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers are also producing. Use White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghost.

**Housatonic River** - Flows are currently clear, comfortable for fishing, and are continuing to decrease (currently 1,000 cfs at Falls Village and 1,500 cfs at Gaylordsville), although with rain predicted for Friday, flows may again increase. Morning water temperatures are in the low to mid 50's °F (TMA area). Adams (#12-14) in the evening are producing. Hendrickson (#12-#14) in the afternoon and Blue Wing Olives (#12-#16) are on the water with Green Caddis Pupa (#14-16) soon to show up. Anglers using Pheasant Tail (#12-14), Copper John (#12-16) and American Pheasant Tail (#12-14) are finding nymphing to be very productive. Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost) around 6:30 pm.

**Anglers Can Expect Good Fishing in western CT** on the Farmington River, West Branch Farmington River, Pomperaug River, Pequonnock River, Pootatuck River (upper), Saugatuck River (Lower), Sandy Brook, Still River (Colebrook), Nepaug River, Housatonic River (TMA) and Naugatuck River (including TMA). **In Eastern CT, good fishing can be expected at** Pattaconk Brook, Kitt Brook, Broad Brook (Preston), Choate Brook, Quinebaug River, Middle River, Crystal Lake Brook, Tankerhoosen River, Hockanum River (above and below TMA), Hammonasset River (including TMA), Salmon River (including TMA), Jeremy River, Natchaug River, Bigelow Brook, Still River (Eastford), Yantic River (including TMA), Hop River, Skungamaug River, Shetucket River and Snake Meadow Brook.

**Lakes & Ponds** – Good trout fishing was found in many lakes and ponds throughout the state including Lake Saltonstall, Coventry Lake, East Twin Lake, Candlewood Lake (including three 15-17 “football-shaped” browns for one angler), Highland Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Lake Quonnipaug, Wononscopomuc Lake, Tyler Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Amos Lake, Alexander Lake, Squantz Pond (including a 3 lb brown trout), Mt Tom Pond, West Hill Pond and Beach Pond. **Anglers can expect good fishing in western CT at** Twin Brooks Park Pond, Huntington Park Pond, Wononscopomuc Lake, Hop Brook Lake, Baummer's Pond, Mt. Tom Pond, Black Rock Lake (Flood Control Impoundment), Ball Pond, the Bunnells Pond (Beardsley Park) Urban Fishing Area, and the Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond) and Stratton Brook Trout Parks. **In Eastern CT, good fishing should be expected at** Cedar Lake, Pattaconk Lake, Gardner Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Black Pond (Middlefield), Walkers Reservoir, Amos Lake, Wyassup Lake, Beach Pond, Billings Lake, the Beaver Brook Park Ponds, Wauregan Reservoir, Alexander Lake, Moosup Pond and the Mohegan Park Pond, Chatfield Hollow and Day Pond Trout Parks.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is generally good with reports from Lake Zoar (5.6 lb bass), Lake Lillinonah, Lake Saltonstall, Upper Moodus Reservoir, Quaddick Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Saugatuck

Reservoir, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (mixed reports), Bantam Lake, Tyler Lake, Highland Lake, Wononscopomuc Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Amos Lake, Gardner Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Ball Pond and Mt. Tom Pond.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported at Candlewood Lake (catches include some in the 4-5 lb range), Highland Lake, Coventry Lake, Bantam Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), and Squantz Pond. Smallmouth fishing at Gardner Lake has been slow.

**NORTHERN PIKE** action reported at Bantam Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

**WALLEYE** catches are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Saugatuck Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake (**10 lb walleye reported**), Gardner Lake and Squantz Pond (a 6.5 lb fish among the catches).

**CHAIN PICKEREL** are being caught at Lake Wononscopomuc, Saugatuck Reservoir and Upper Moodus Reservoir.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER – STRIPED BASS** are in the river to the Windsor area. Mostly school size (16-25”) fish. Some adults (to 37 inches) are showing up in the lower to mid river. Sand & blood worms are working. Big plastic baits like 9” Houdini Shad, 7” Bombers & swim baits are also working. After a lull last week (high flows, cooler temperatures), **SHAD** are now being reported throughout the river. Successful anglers are using willow leaf or shad darts for these tasty treats. Anglers are reminded that the only legal method of harvesting American shad is angling. **NORTHERN PIKE** action reported from Wethersfield and Crow Point Cove. Knowledgeable anglers are targeting **CATFISH** in the Hartford to Middletown area. Sandworms or cut bait are catching fish this week up to 5 lbs.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER STRIPED BASS/RIVER HERRING STUDY** - Researchers at the University of Connecticut are continuing their study of the effects of striped bass on river herring in the Connecticut River. This study sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection began last year, involves the collection, and tagging, of striped bass by electrofishing several nights per week. This sampling takes place on the CT River north from Wethersfield. Operations in the Connecticut portion of the river will be staged out of Windsor Locks. In Massachusetts, most sampling will be in the Holyoke area. Anglers seeing an electrofishing boat (boat with a generator, lights, and poles protruding into the water) should note these are biologists doing important research.

As part of the study, anglers who catch a striped bass with a yellow or red tag are encouraged to call 860-486-4694 to provide the tag ID #, the specific location where the fish was caught, whether the fish was released, and your contact information. All such reports are eligible for a \$15 (yellow tag) to \$50 reward (red tag).

**Please do not remove the tag from fish you plan to release.**

#### **BOAT LAUNCHES & BOATING INFORMATION**

- The state boat launch at **HIGHLAND LAKE** will be closed to all use on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> for reconfiguration of the parking area.

**DIDYMO REMINDER** - Anglers are reminded to take precautions to prevent the spread of the highly invasive freshwater alga *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as “Didymo”, into CT waters. Last year (2007), the presence of didymo was confirmed in several popular trout streams, the upper Connecticut River (NH/VT), White River (VT), Batten Kill (NY/VT) and the East and West Branches of the Delaware River (NY/PA). These were the first official reports of didymo in the northeastern United States. This microscopic algae can develop massive blooms, sometimes extending for several miles of river. These blooms can smother aquatic plants, aquatic insects and molluscs, alter stream flow characteristics and fish habitat, and impact food webs. Dense mats of didymo can also reduce recreational and aesthetic values of affected rivers.

Humans can unknowingly spread didymo. The microscopic cells can cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions. Although didymo has not yet been found in CT, it has been found in near-by states. It is

recommended that anglers, especially those who also fish streams outside Connecticut, practice **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** procedures.

- **CHECK:** Before leaving a river, stream or lake, remove all obvious clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing & footwear, canoes & kayaks, and anything else that has been in the water and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the site. If you find any later, clean your gear and dispose of all material in the trash.
- **CLEAN:** Soak/spray & scrub boats and all other “hard” items for at least one minute in either very hot (140°F) water, a 2% bleach solution, or a 5% dishwashing detergent solution. Absorbent materials such as clothes and felt soles on waders should be soaked for at least 40 minutes in very hot water (140°F), or 30 minutes in hot water (115°F) with 5% dishwashing detergent. Freezing thoroughly will also kill didymo.
- **DRY:** If cleaning is not practical, after the item is completely dry to touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway.

*The above procedures will also be effective against other unwanted organisms.*

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## MARINE FISHING REPORT

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Water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in upper 40's to low 50's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

[http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

**Reminder:** The TAUTOG (blackfish) recreational fishing season is closed through June 30.

**Striped bass** fishing for schoolies is the main ticket on the marine scene. Tidal rivers and harbors are prime time for stripers. Striped bass spots worth trying include the Pawcatuck River to Sandy Point, Mystic River, Thames River from Norwich down to Montville, Millstone Point, Niantic River, Hamburg Cove, Calves Island and off Great Island (the “Wood Lot”) in the Connecticut River, Hammonasset River, Branford River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Housatonic River, Bridgeport Harbor (power plant warm water discharge), Saugatuck River, Norwalk, Stamford and Greenwich Harbors.

**Winter flounder** fishing remains fair at Bluff Point State Park (Poquonock Cove), Pine Island area, Niantic River, North and South Brothers, Connecticut River east breakwater on the flood tide, Madison - Guilford area, and Norwalk Harbor.

**For regulation updates, please check our web site** [www.ct.gov/dep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/dep/fishing).

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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
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